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MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MONTANA POST

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From the Director

Arnie Olsen

There is no way to sugarcoat what last legislative session's budget cuts have meant for the Montana Historical Society.

We have been forced to close Montana's Museum Sundays and Mondays except summers. We have had to eliminate Monday hours for our Research Center including the library, archives and photo archives. We have had to reduce guided tours of the Capitol except group tours with reservations. We have had to reduce guided tours at the Original Governor's Mansion. And we have had to eliminate 5.5 positions, or about 10 percent of our staff.

Those are just the most visible impacts of the cuts. We also have made extensive cuts in travel budgets, phones, supplies, computer replacement, Lewis and Clark public assistance, conservation, outreach, education, preservation grants, security and public relations.

We have done as much as we can to minimize the effects of the budget cuts, but they have gone beyond major slices and have begun cutting into the bone of the Society.

The budget cuts came from several directions, including a last minute decision to cut all agencies 1.4 percent across the board. The bottom line is that we have several hundred thousand dollars less in general fund money for the next biennium compared to the last biennium. For a small agency like the Society, the reduction is significant.

In addition to budget reductions, another significant action of the legislature impacted the Society. The management of Virginia and Nevada Cities was transferred to the Department of Commerce, and ownership of

land and artifacts was transferred from the Society to the Montana Heritage Commission. This action significantly reduced our role in the preservation of these historic resources. We opposed this legislation because we felt the Society should maintain a stronger presence in Virginia and Nevada Cities than this legislation allowed.

This news is undeniably disheartening. We cannot be governed by disappointment, however. Instead, it is imperative that every one of us recommits ourselves to seeing the Society through these difficult times. The staff and I are responding to the difficulties that face us with strong resolve, as the stories throughout this *Post* describing our accomplishments affirm. We continue to hold fast to our mission, and we plan to do all we can to reach out to the private sector and other sources to find additional support for the Society. The bottom line is that we cannot allow ourselves to be defeated by hardship. We must be innovative and willing to try new things as we face the future with renewed hope.

In this difficult time, we will be called upon to make tough decisions. But I have faith that your support, encouragement and dedication to the important role of the Montana Historical Society will help us get through.

Thank you for your understanding. The job of the Montana Historical Society is too important for us not to rededicate ourselves with renewed vigor to the cause of our history and heritage, as well as to the future of our great state.

Haynes Gallery Closes to Make Way for Montana in 1800

On Saturday June 28, 2003, the exhibit *F. J. Haynes: Photographer* will close after twenty years of illustrating the history of the Northern Pacific Railroad and Yellowstone National Park. The Haynes gallery is closing and will be remodeled for the Society's major upcoming Lewis and Clark exhibit, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark*.

Opened in 1983, the Haynes gallery housed the longest running exhibit at MHS. Based on the photographs and artifacts donated by the Haynes family, the exhibit featured re-creations of events and scenes of Montana's railroad and park heritage. Scheduled to open in April 2005, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown* will focus on the plant, animal, and native communities of Montana as they were in 1800. The exhibit will convey the diversity of the peopled landscape that would be forever changed by the processes of American nation-building.

Society Volunteers Honored

Gov. Judy Martz honored volunteers of the Montana Historical Society on April 23, 2003, during a luncheon at the governor's residence where she and Society Director Arnold Olsen were presented with a symbolic check for \$107,830 that represented the time the volunteers have donated over the past year. The society's 132 volunteers provided 10,783 hours of service ranging from giving tours to students from across the state, to working on artifacts, to hosting public events, to performing office work. The check represents \$10 an hour for each hour volunteered, which is about the equivalent of three full time employees.

The volunteers also contributed \$1,000 in cash to the society last year-raised from their annual March Lecture Series-which was used to purchase a digital photo printer for the Museum, a tape recorder and microphone for oral history projects, and conservation supplies for the Research Center.

Summer volunteer opportunities include "Under the Tent" activities for children and the Western Rendezvous of Art in August. If you are interested in volunteering, call Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

History Happenings

The **Montana Post** has gone electronic. We will no longer be printing the *Post* conventionally. Instead, it is available on our web site and via e-mail. To join our e-mail list, please contact mkohl@mt.gov, subject line "subscribe."

The Montana Historical Society Archives recently purchased a microfilm copy of the **World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Records**. The microfilm, purchased from National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), form a valuable addition to the Montana Adjutant General's Records (RS223), which provide service information for those who entered the military through the Montana National Guard. The collection consists of draft registration cards (1917-1918) created during World War I. The cards include assigned registration number, name, date and place of birth, race, citizenship, occupation, personal description, signature, and county in which registration took place. The records are arranged alphabetically by county and then by individual name. For more information about these records or other military records contact the Library-Archives Reference Staff at 406-444-2681 or via email at MHSlibrary@mt.gov.

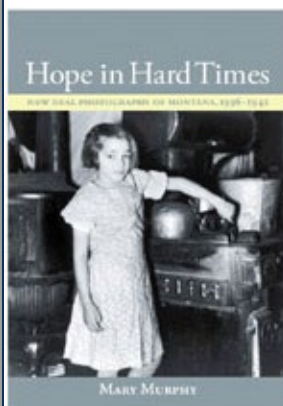
The **Thirtieth Annual Montana History Conference**, "Montana, A Treasured Place," will be held October 23-25, 2003, in downtown Helena at the new Best Western Helena Great Northern Hotel. Thursday features a choice of four half-day workshops: "Teaching Everyone's History: Integrating Native American Culture into the K-12 Classroom," "From the Foundation Up: Tracing the History of Your Property," "So You Have a Box of Records . . .," and "Researching History on the Internet." This year's concurrent sessions include "Uncle Sam Under the Big Sky: The Federal Legacy in Montana's , Historical Places," "Making a Home on Foreign Ground: Montana War Brides," "Museum Cultural Collections: Plunder or Preservation?" and the perennial favorite "Jerks in Montana History." Keynote speakers will be Lewis and Clark naturalist Daniel Botkin, and paleontologist Jack Horner. For more information, please visit the [History Conference page](#) on our website.

The Montana Historical Society Research Center welcomes **Mary Ellen Tunks** to the reference team. Mary Ellen holds a B.A. and M.A. in history from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania and brings six years of library experience to the position of Library Reference Technician. She replaces **Angie Murray**, who left the program in January to take a new post in the Legislative Library in the State Capitol.

Kerry Oman's "Winter in the Rockies: Winter Quarters of the Mountain Men" (*Montana The Magazine of Western History*, spring 2002) won the **2003 Spur Award** from the **Western Writers of America** for best nonfiction article. Oman will receive his award at the WWA's annual convention, which is being held in Helena, June 24-28, 2003.

Two historic Montana schools were listed in the National Register of Historic Places this spring: the New Deal-era **Neihart School**, in Neihart, Montana, and the 1920 **Evaro School**, in Evaro, Montana. The National Register is the nation's official list of historic properties judged to be worthy of preservation.

Martha Kohl left the Publication Program in March after almost eight years of serving as editor of the Montana Historical Society Press, but she did not go far. She is now working for the Society's sign program researching and writing National Register Historic Signs. Owners of National Register properties are invited to apply for historical markers. Applications are available from the State Historic Preservation Office's section of the Society's web site.



The **Montana Historical Society Press** is publishing **three books** this summer. Mary Murphy's *Hope in Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana, 1936-1942*, uses the vivid photographs of Russell Lee, Arthur Rothstein, John Vachon, and Marion Post Wolcott to illustrate the story of the Depression in Montana. John Morrison's *Mavericks* documents the political lives of nine influential Montanans, including such luminaries as Mike Mansfield and Jeannette Rankin. Finally, Ellen Baumler has edited *Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan*. Mary Ronan grew up in Montana's rugged mining camps, went to school in California, and became the wife of the Indian agent on the Flathead Reservation. To order copies from the MHS Store, call 1-800-243-9900.

The Membership program is pleased to announce the **first inaugural MHS calendar** for all new members and for current members who upgrade their support level. Using rarely seen MHS photographs, the calendar shows Montana's children at work and play in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Copies of the calendar are also available for purchase through the MHS Store at 1-800-243-9900.

The State Historic Preservation Office has placed **historic walking tour brochures** on the web for the following communities: Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Deer Lodge, Hardin, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Miles City, Nevada City, and Virginia City. New brochures are added periodically. Interested visitors and community members are welcome to download these [free tours](#) on our website.

The Montana Preservation Alliance, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Office are organizing a **regional workshop on preserving place and culture** to be held in Polson, Montana, July 20-22, 2003. The workshop will feature nationally recognized speakers as well as local regional experts. Sessions will include ones on conservation easements, historic landscapes, the Tribal



Historic Preservation Office's approach to preservation, historic rehabilitation tax incentives, revolving loan funds, sacred sites and place names, and a round-table discussion of heritage corridors. For further information visit the, [Historic Preservation](#) page on Society's website or contact Rolene Schliesman, 406-444-7742 or rschliesman@mt.gov.



This spring, **Montana Heritage Project** schools from Libby to Big Fork hosted community-wide events to showcase student research and thank their communities for their support. Housed within the Montana Historical Society and funded by the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, the Montana Heritage Project is a student/teacher collaboration that encourages high school students to compare and contrast Montana's historic community life with today's community patterns. The events celebrated a year of research on topics from area Hutterite colonies to the role of rescue workers in the community. In early April, students presented their research at the Fifth Annual Student Conference in Helena, while in May, four Roundup students represented the Montana Heritage Project in Washington, D.C., where they presented their work on the history of Roundup to the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington.

Summer at the Society

All programs are held in the Society's Boo Auditorium at 6th and Roberts St., Helena, and are free unless otherwise noted; however, entrance fees are required to view galleries and exhibits.

June 26, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America

Virginia author Henry Wiencek brings a bit of colonial American history to Montana. Wiencek will explore our first president's struggle with the realities of slavery and its consequences for the republic to which he devoted his life.

June 26, 7:00 p.m.

Photographing Montana: The Life and Works of Evelyn Cameron

Through extraordinary photographs and excerpts from diaries and letters, author Donna Lucey traces Evelyn Cameron's transformation from an upper-class Englishwoman to a resourceful ranch woman and photographer who relished the independence and challenges of western life. MHS Auditorium. Admission. MHS members free.

July 13, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Good Old Summertime-An Artist's View of Helena

Art, fun activities, live music, food, and more. Original Governor's Mansion, 304 N. Ewing, Helena

July 20-22, 2003

Preserving Place and Culture Workshop at Best Western KwaTaqNuk Resort, Polson, Montana

Cosponsored by Montana Preservation Alliance, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Registration fee. For information call 406-444-7742 or e-mail rschliesman@mt.gov.

July 28 - August 1, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Pioneer Kids Camp, Helena

Children ages six through ten are invited to experience life in the 1890s. Registration limited to twenty participants. \$120.00. Register through CommunityWorks, 406-457-1800 or sondra@communityworks.net.

August 21-23: Western Rendezvous of Art, Helena

Various locations. Admission

August 21, 2:00 p.m.

'I Want It Real Bad': The Russell-Mackay Collaboration

Of all the relationships Charlie and Nancy Russell formed with patrons, none was closer or more enduring than that with Malcolm and Helen Mackay. Mackay's Russell collection comprises the heart of the matchless Montana Historical Society Russell collection. Historian Brian Dippie will explore the collaboration between artist and patron that realized Mackay's grand vision of Russell's work riding along "down through the ages." Best Western Great Northern Town Center, Helena.

Under the Tent Activity Days

Free, Fun, and Educational Activities for the Whole Family

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. * MHS Lawn* Daycare groups welcome.

(Groups please call 406-444-4789 to let us know when you are coming.),

July 17

Discover the Corps of Discovery! Make a hat like Lewis wore, write with a quill pen like Clark, build a miniature boat, learn to identify animals, and meet members of the expedition!

July 31

Celebrate Montana's Indian Cultures! Create original beadwork, assemble a parfleche, and more! Listen to traditional drumming and learn native dances.

August 14

It's an Animal's Life! Learn about Montana's wild residents, make your own animal tracks, sculpt native animals, and more! In conjunction with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Hours through September 15

Montana's Museum and Store

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p., m.

Closed July 4.

Cost: Adults \$3, child (5-18) \$1, family \$8 (Family equals two adults and immediate children under 19)

Capitol

Tours: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Last tour at 1:00 p.m.

Self-guided tours: Mondays-Fridays, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; and Sundays, noon - 5:00 p.m. (Brochures are available by request at the security desk on the first floor.)

No admission fee. Call 406-444-4789 for group reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Wednesdays-Saturdays, noon - 5:00 p.m.

Tours begin on the hour. Last tour begins at 4:00 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$2, child (5-18) \$1, family \$6 (Family equals two adults and immediate children under 19)

Call 406-444-4789 for group reservations.

RESEARCH CENTER

Library/Archives

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays
No admission fee.

Photo Archives

Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays, weekends, and holidays

No admission fee.

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